

Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal - September 28, 2001

<http://sanjose.bcentral.com/sanjose/stories/2001/09/24/daily74.html>



Breaking News

September 28, 2001

Tech and government leaders discuss air safety

Timothy Roberts

Representatives of more than 25 Silicon Valley technology firms met with Federal Aviation Administration and FBI officials Friday afternoon in a gathering organized by U.S. Rep. Mike Honda. The San Jose Democrat said he wanted federal transportation and law enforcement officials to learn what Silicon Valley companies can do to make air travel safer.

Among the participants were Bill Withycombe, administrator for the FAA's Western Region, Pixim Inc. CEO Bob Weinschenk and Propel Software Corp. CEO Steve Kirsch.

Mr. Honda says the FAA and other officials need to know about the latest digital-imaging, biometric and other new technology being developed in the valley before

"I think that it is essential that our high-tech companies and all levels of government work directly with our airports to clearly define the new security needs we are facing in order to come up with the most innovative solutions to these needs," Mr. Honda said after the two-hour closed-door meeting.

Among the ideas were hand-scanners for identification and new technology that would allow aviation officials to take control of an airliner that has been hijacked.

"One thing won't solve the problem, but a combination of approaches will help," Mr. Honda said.



Copyright 2001 American City Business Journals Inc.

[Click for permission to reprint \(PRC# 1.1641.489063\)](#)

All contents of this site ©American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.